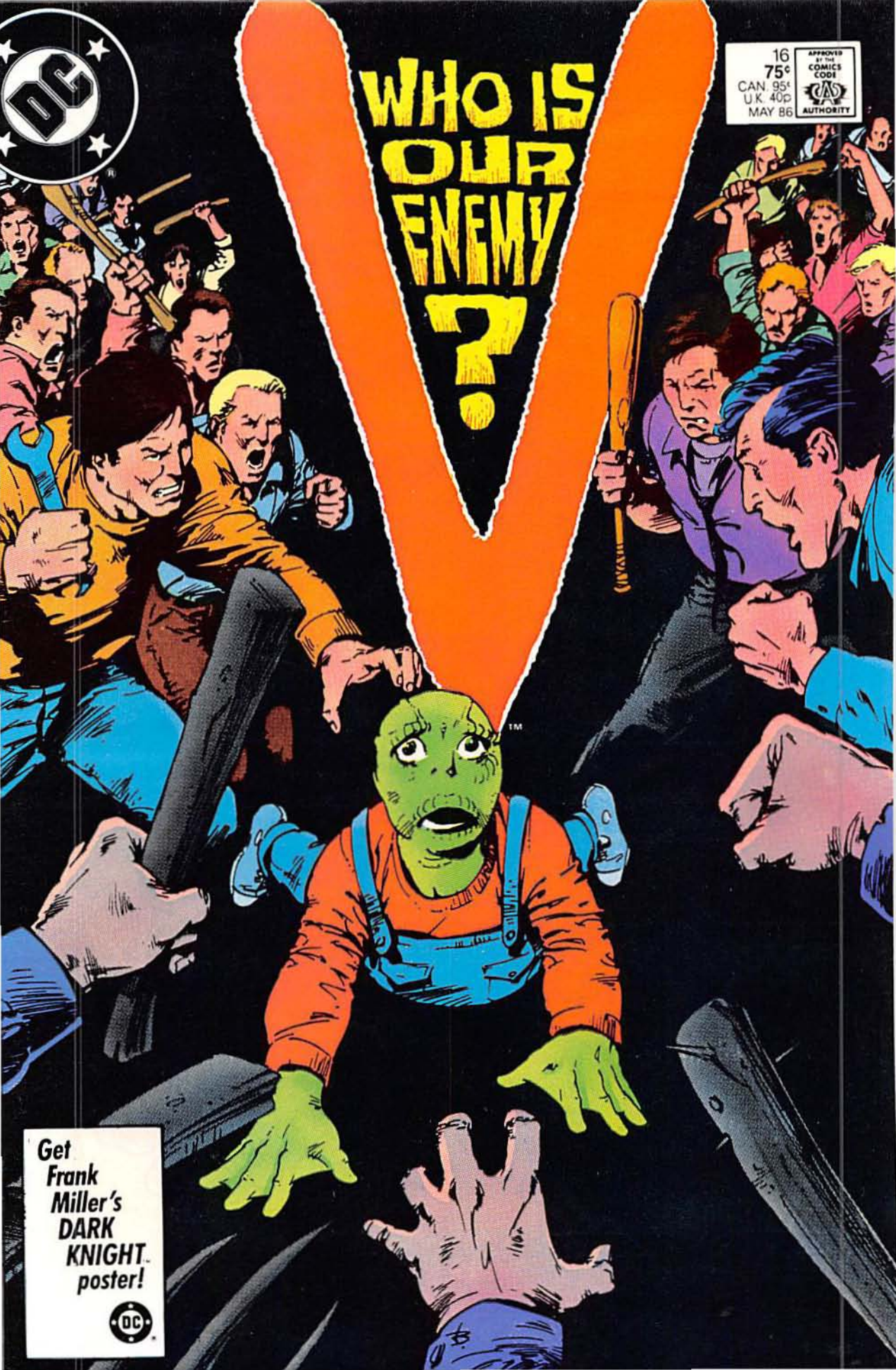
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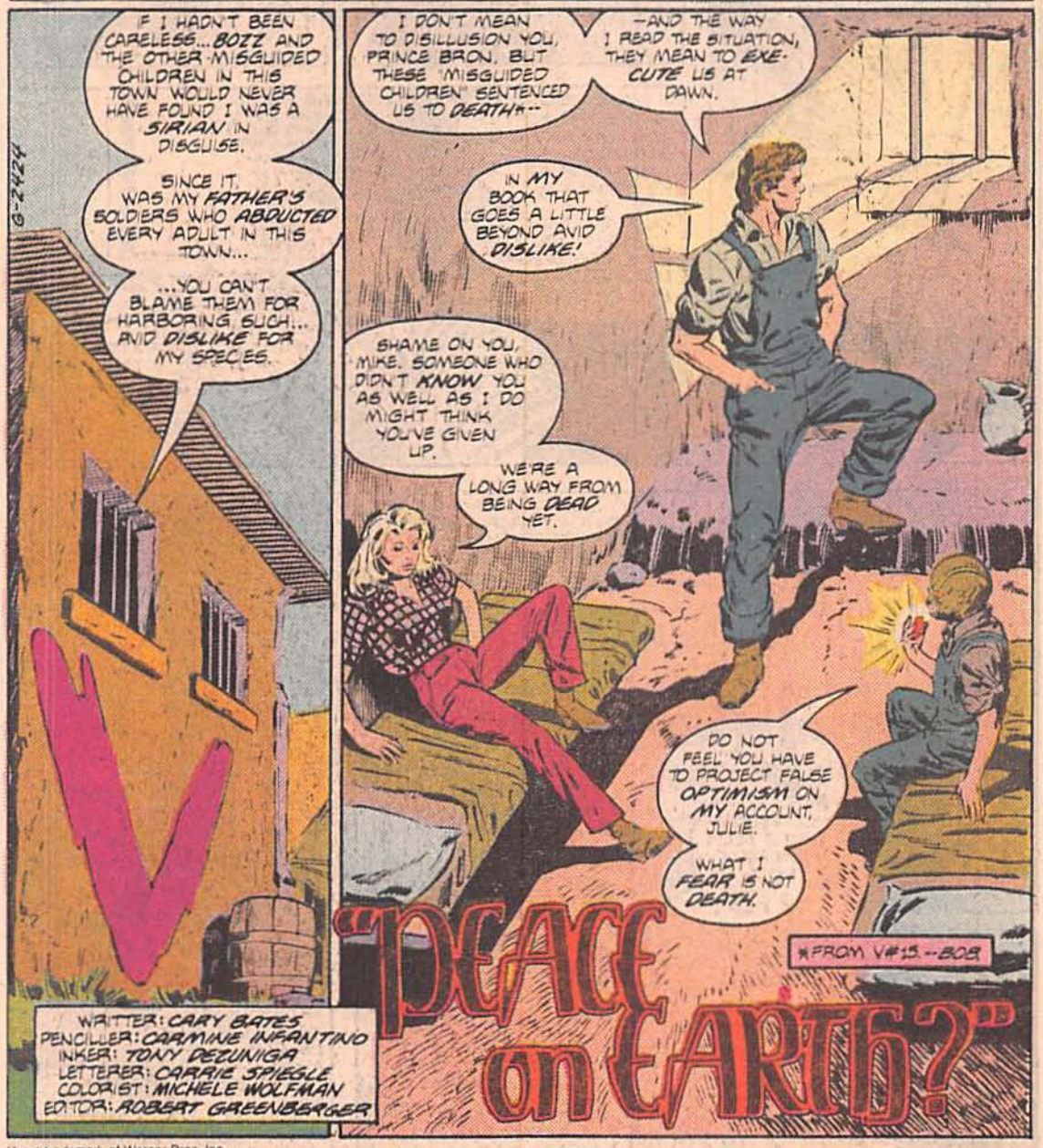

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NO, WHAT I FEAR IS LOSING MY LIFE BEFORE I HAVE PROPERLY COMPLETED MY MISSION.
THE MISSION. FOR WHICH I WAS DISPATCHED TO YOUR PLANET.

BRON, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL US? ALL THIS TIME WE'VE BELIEVED YOUR ARRIVAL AMONG US WAS AN ACCIDENT--
--THE RESULT OF A FIFTH-COLUMNIST KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT THAT ENDED IN A CRASH-LANDING. *
*AS SEEN IN V#11--BOB.

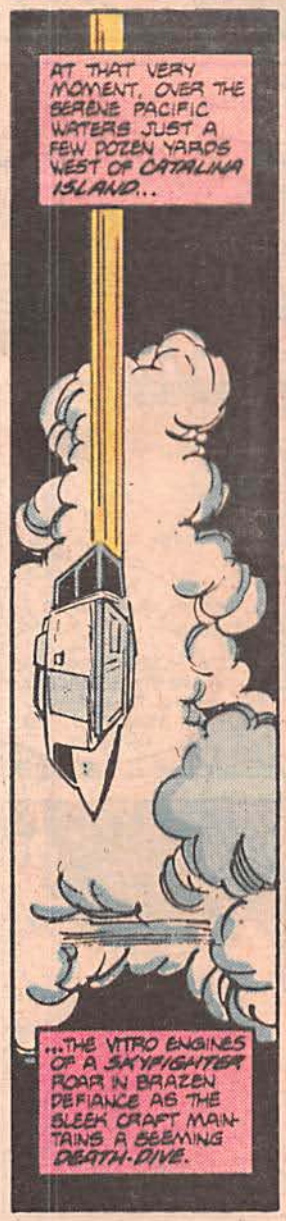
IF WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAR SOME SORT OF CONFESSION HERE, BRON, I CAN'T SAY I THINK MUCH OF YOUR TIMING.
ONCE THE SUN COMES UP...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MEASURE OUR LIFE EXPECTANCY WITH AN EGG TIMER.
IT'S TRUE... I WAS NOT COMPLETELY TRUTHFUL WITH THE TWO OF YOU...

...BUT MORE THAN THAT MY SACRED VOWS DO NOT PERMIT ME TO SAY...EVEN NOW.
IF ONLY MY DJON HADN'T BEEN DAMAGED DURING MY FIGHT WITH BOZZ...
YOUR DJON--THAT'S YOUR PENDANT, NO?
MIKE AND I ALWAYS ASSUMED IT WAS SOME SORT OF COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE.

MOST ASTUTE. THE DJON HAS ENABLED ME TO DIRECTLY TRANSMIT A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS TO MY FATHER OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.
BUT THE DJON HAS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES AS WELL... WHEN IT'S OPERATING PROPERLY.

IF THERE'S EVEN ONE CHANCE IN A HUNDRED YOU CAN GET THAT GIZMO OF YOURS TO DO ANYTHING--
--ANYTHING THAT MAY HELP US OUT OF THIS MESS--DO IT AND DO IT FAST!
WE'RE JUST ABOUT OUT OF CHANCES--AND TIME!
MIKE... WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO YOU SEE?
2

MORNING, I'M AFRAID.
YOU COULD SAY IT'S JUST SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE QUESTION OF THE METHOD OF OUR EXECUTION.


AT THAT VERY MOMENT, OVER THE SERENE PACIFIC WATERS JUST A FEW DOZEN YARDS WEST OF CATALINA ISLAND...
...THE VITRO ENGINES OF A SKYFIGHTER ROAR IN BRAZEN DEFIANCE AS THE SLEEK CRAFT MAINTAINS A SEEMING DEATH-DIVE.

MIKI...NOT THAT I DOUBT YOUR ABILITY OR ANYTHING...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT, KYLE--

--YOU'RE HOPING ALL MY AERO-STRESS CALCULATIONS WERE RIGHT ON THE BEAM.
SPLASSHH
DAMN STRAIGHT!

WELL? DID MY COMPUTERS AND I PASS THE AUDITION OR WHAT?
MIKI, SHE HANDLES LIKE AN UNDERWATER DREAM!
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS-- NOW WE CAN RIG EVERY RESISTANCE SKYFIGHTER FOR SUBMARINE WARFARE AS WELL AS AERIAL COMBAT.

"THE OFFSPRING OF A HUMAN MOTHER AND VISITOR FATHER, ELIZABETH, THE "STAR-CHILD," HAS POSSESSED AWESOME PARANORMAL POWERS SINCE BIRTH.--BOB.

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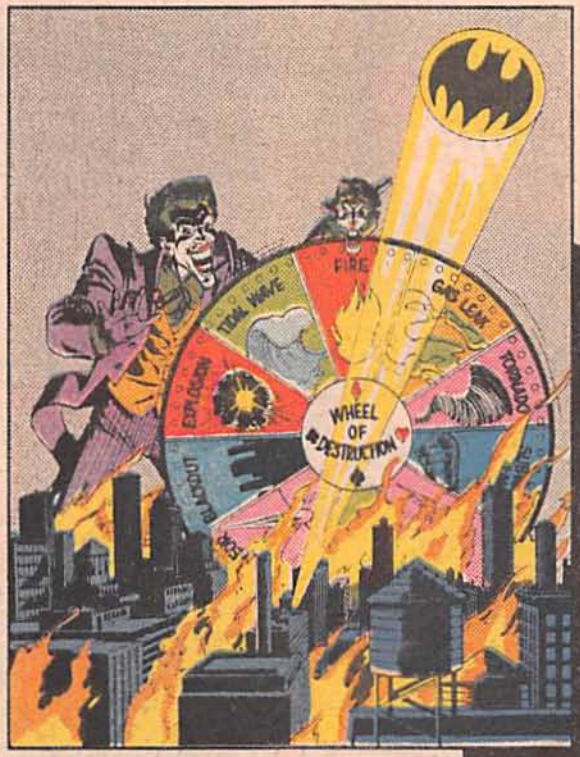

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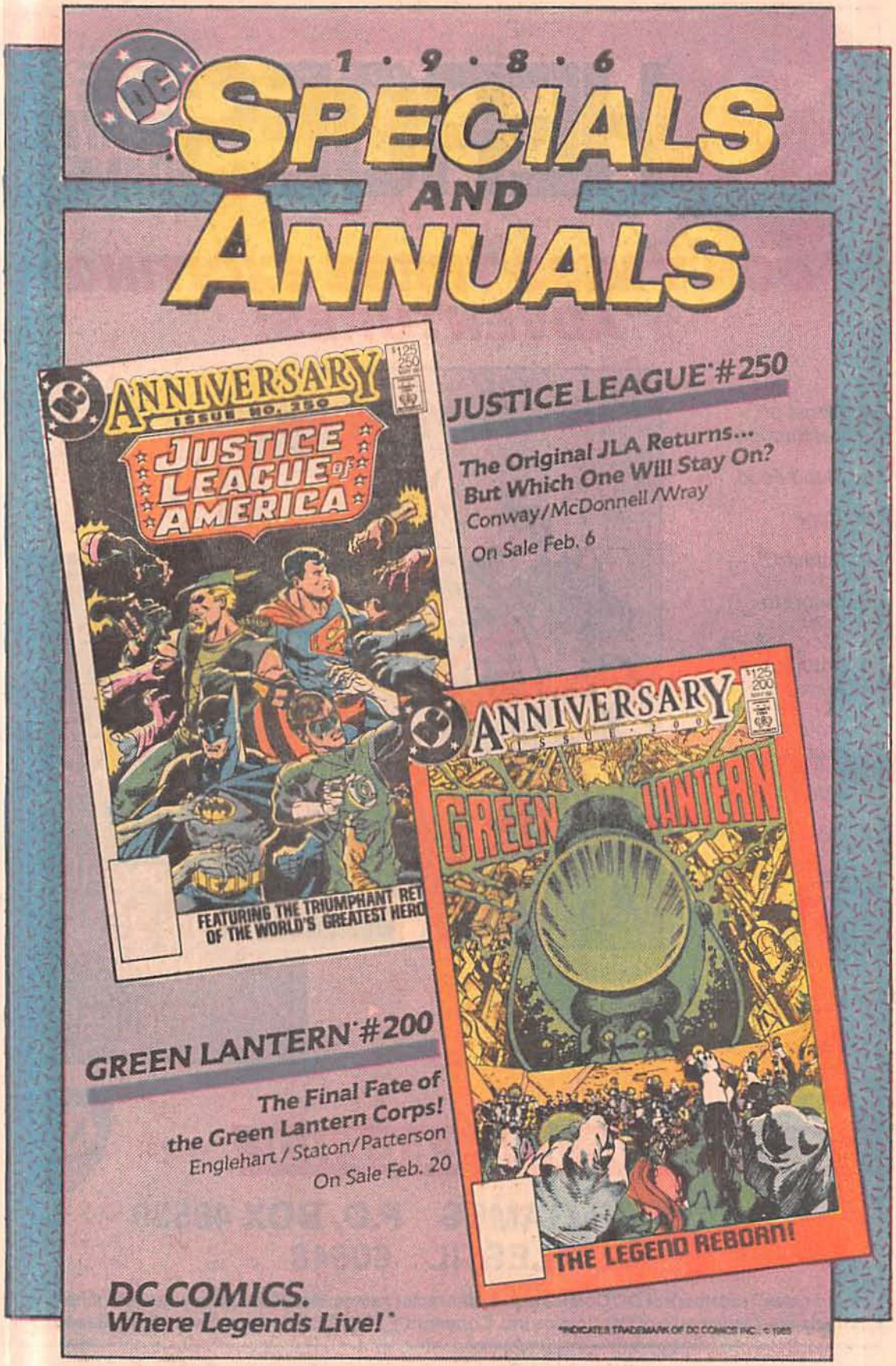
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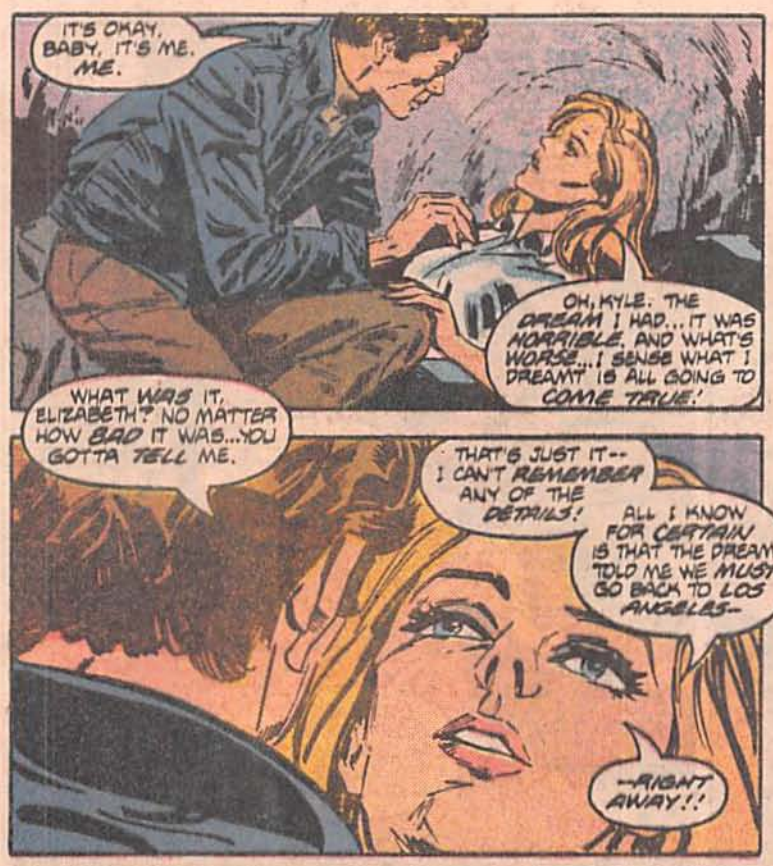

IT'S OKAY, BABY, IT'S ME. ME.
OH, KYLE. THE DREAM I HAD... IT WAS HORRIBLE. AND WHAT'S WORSE...I SENSE WHAT I DREAMT IS ALL GOING TO COME TRUE!
WHAT WAS IT, ELIZABETH? NO MATTER HOW BAD IT WAS...YOU GOTTA TELL ME.
THAT'S JUST IT-- I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF THE DETAILS!
ALL I KNOW FOR CERTAIN IS THAT THE DREAM TOLD ME WE MUST GO BACK TO LOS ANGELES--
--RIGHT AWAY!!

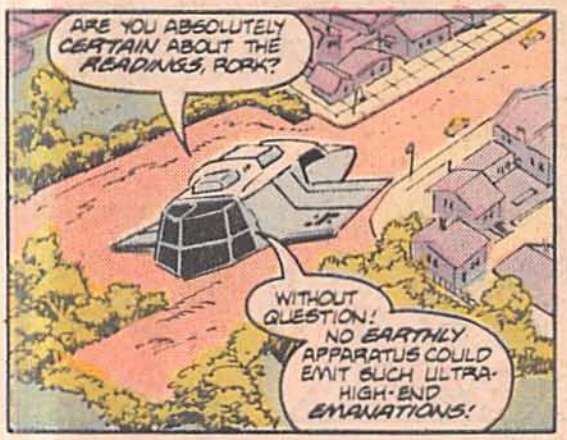
WHILE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES TO THE EAST...
ALL RIGHT, BOYS AND GIRLS-- I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ONE THING WHEN YOU'RE PULLING YOUR TRIGGERS--
--YOU'RE SHOOTING TRAITORS...TRAITORS WHO BETRAYED YOUR PARENTS AND THE REST OF THE HUMAN RACE!
THAT MAKES THEM LOWLIFES WHO DESERVE TO DIE!

READY...
AIM...
...FIRE!
BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAMM

HOW DID WE DO, BOZZ?
WAS THAT OKAY?
WERE WE BETTER THAT TIME?
LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY-- YOU'RE AS GOOD AS YOU'RE GOING TO GET!
MAYBE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO KILL ON THE FIRST SHOT...BUT THAT'S OKAY...LONG AS YOU DO THE JOB BY THE THIRD OR FOURTH BULLET!
LET'S DITCH THOSE STORE MANNEQUINS AND THEN LOAD UP FOR THE FINAL ROUND.

IT'S SUDDENLY AWFUL QUIET OUT THERE, MIKE. LOADING UP AGAIN FOR ANOTHER ROUND AT THE MANNEQUINS, I HOPE.
BAD NEWS AND WORSE NEWS, JULIE.
THE MANNEQUINS HAVE HAD IT--

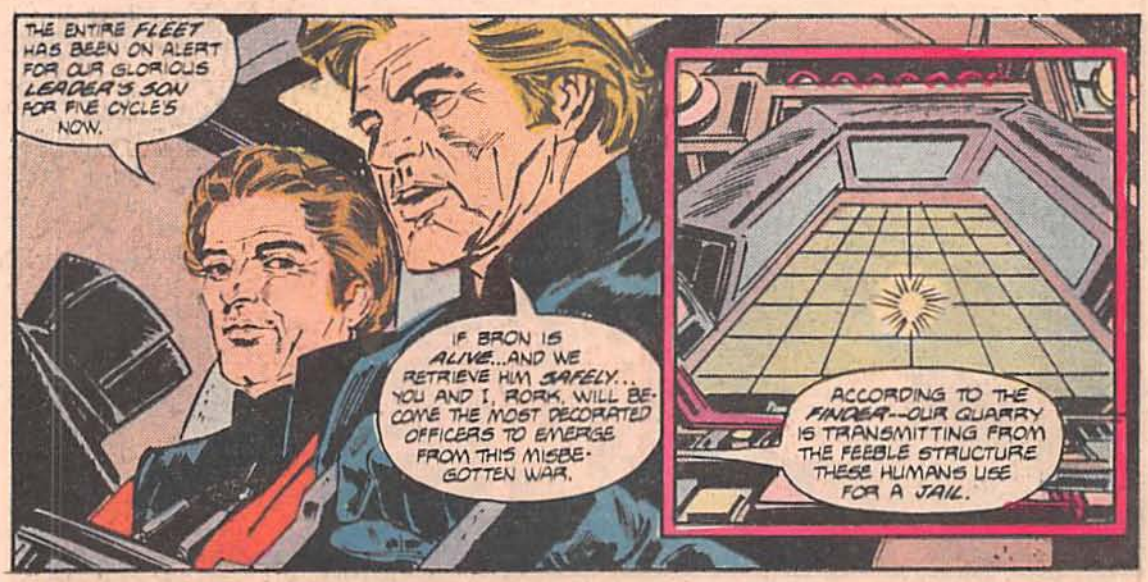
--AND THE WAY I READ BOZZ AND HIS PINT-SIZED FIRING SQUAD, THEY'RE COMING FOR US NEXT--
BRON...IF THAT DUTON OF YOURS IS GOING TO GET US OUT OF THIS MESS--
I'M DOING MY BEST, JULIE. IF I CAN JUST GET THE TRANSDUCUS BACK IN REALLIGNMENT...

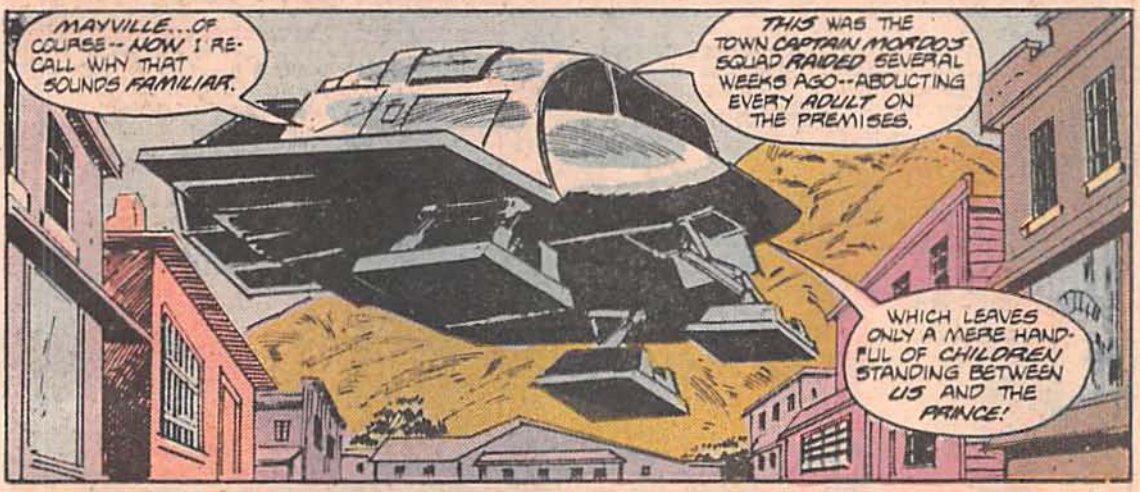

ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN ABOUT THE READINGS, RORK?
WITHOUT QUESTION! NO EARTHLY APPARATUS COULD EMIT SUCH ULTRA-HIGH-END EMANATIONS!

ADD TO THIS THE FACT THAT THE EMANATIONS ARE BEING TRANSMITTED ON THE SACRED FREQUENCY RESERVED FOR ROYAL COMMUNICATIONS ONLY--
--AND THE CONCLUSION IS INESCAPABLE:
WE HAVE FOUND THE MISSING PRINCE!

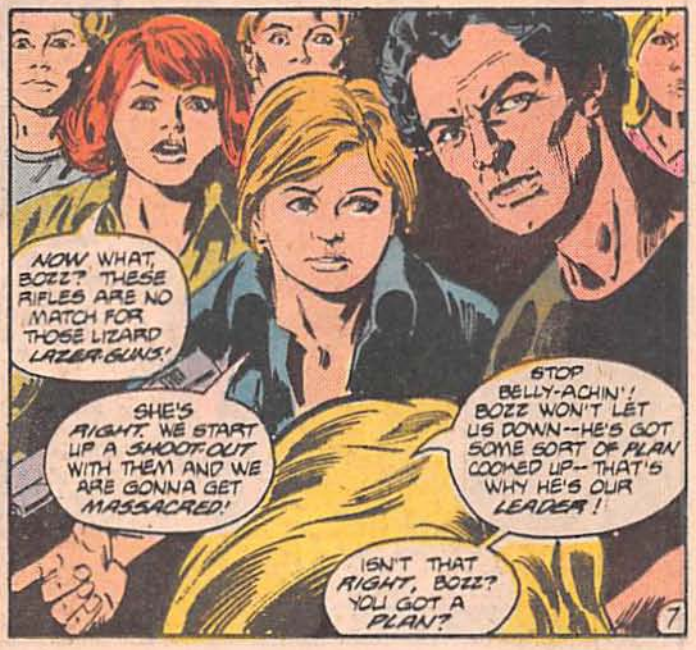
HOW COME THAT VISITOR SKYFIGHTER IS CIRCLING BACK, BRON?
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, A LIZARD MIND-READER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE--BUT I CAN GUARANTEE IT'S NOTHIN' GOOD.

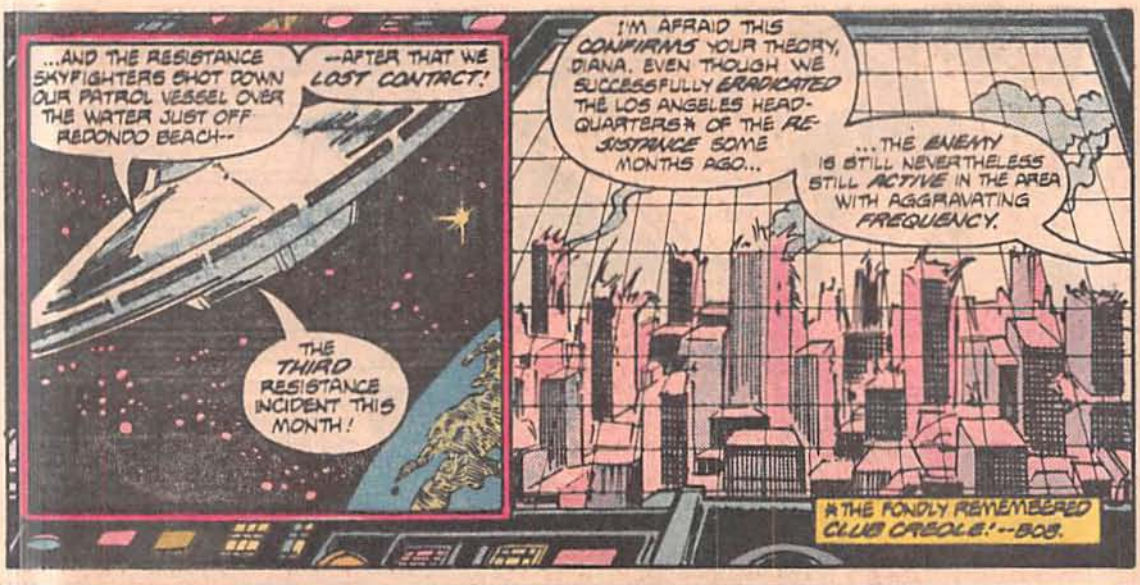
NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE GLAD TO SEE SOME VISITOR INTERFERENCE COMING OUR WAY--BUT THIS TIME THEY'RE TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER:

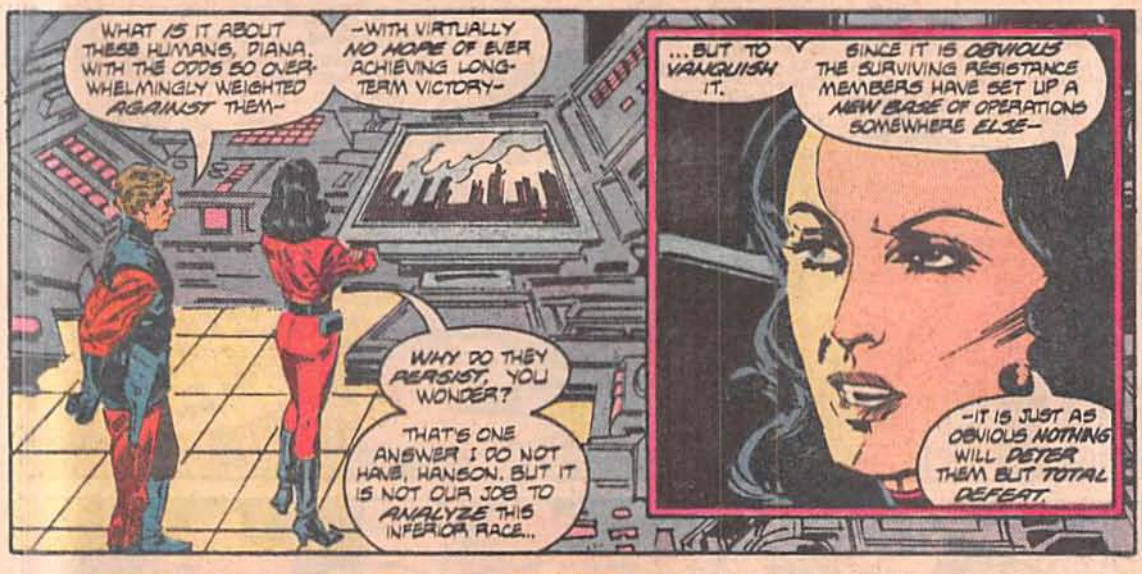

THE ENTIRE FLEET HAS BEEN ON ALERT FOR OUR GLORIOUS LEADER'S SON FOR FIVE CYCLES NOW.
IF BRON IS ALIVE...AND WE RETRIEVE HIM SAFELY... YOU AND I, RORK, WILL BECOME THE MOST DECORATED OFFICERS TO EMERGE FROM THIS MISBEGOTTEN WAR.
ACCORDING TO THE FINDER--OUR QUARRY IS TRANSMITTING FROM THE FEEBLE STRUCTURE THESE HUMANS USE FOR A JAIL.


MAYVILLE...OF COURSE--NOW I RECALL WHY THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
THIS WAS THE TOWN CAPTAIN MORDOJ'S SQUAD RAIDED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO--ABDUCTING EVERY ADULT ON THE PREMISES.
WHICH LEAVES ONLY A MERE HANDFUL OF CHILDREN STANDING BETWEEN US AND THE PRINCE!

GEEZ, THEY'RE LANDING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MAIN STREET.
WHADDA WE DO NOW?
QUICK--INTO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE BEFORE THEY SEE US!


NOW WHAT, BOZZ? THESE RIFLES ARE NO MATCH FOR THOSE LIZARD LAZER-GUNS!
SHE'S RIGHT. WE START UP A SHOOT-OUT WITH THEM AND WE ARE GONNA GET MASSACRED!
STOP BELLY-ACHIN'! BOZZ WON'T LET US DOWN--HE'S GOT SOME SORT OF PLAN COOKED UP--THAT'S WHY HE'S OUR LEADER!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BOZZ? YOU GOT A PLAN?





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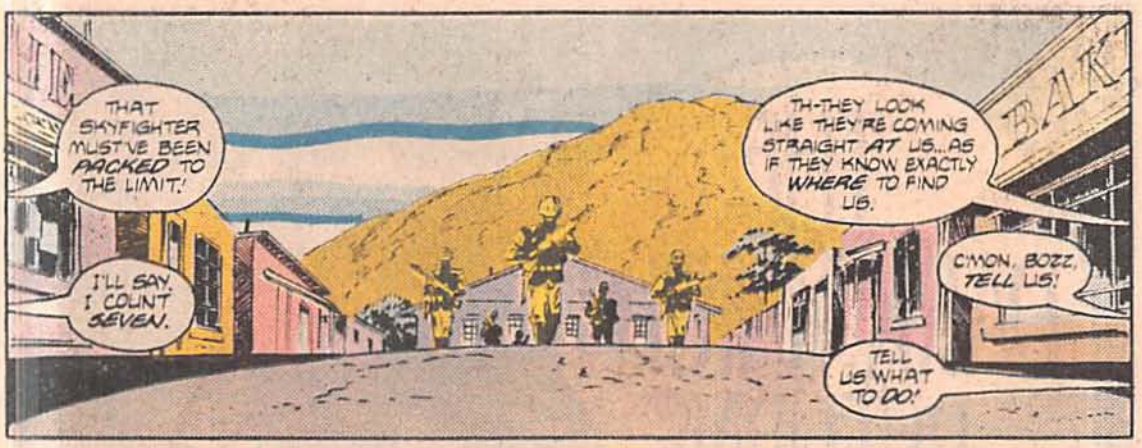

THAT SKYFIGHTER MUST'VE BEEN PACKED TO THE LIMIT!
I'LL SAY. I COUNT SEVEN.
TH-THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE COMING STRAIGHT AT US...AS IF THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND US.
C'MON, BOZZ, TELL US!
TELL US WHAT TO DO!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOZZ? FRESH OUT OF BRILLIANT IDEAS? ALL THESE KIDS WHO LOOK UP TO YOU--THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU TO LEAD THEM!
SHUDDUP, DONOVAN.

THE TRUE TEST OF A LEADER IS HOW HE FUNCTIONS UNDER PRESSURE, BOZZ.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN SO FAR, MY FRIEND--YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER!

LAME, DONOVAN. I KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS--
--TRY TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU GUYS ARE SMARTER THAN ME--
--LIKE YOU KNOW A WAY OUT OF THIS FIX.
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA WORK!

IT DOES WORK!
FINALLY!

BY SIRIUS, I THINK I'VE GOT IT!
SSSSSS

CAN'T SEE A THING! WHAT'S GOING ON?
A TRICK-- BRIGHT LIGHT-- THAT'S ALL IT IS!

QUICK-- GET THE KEYS!
THANKS TO THEM, NOW THIS JAIL HAS A BACK DOOR---
--A WAY OUT!

THAT'S ALL IT IS, HUH?
WOW! BRON BLASTED HIS WAY RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!
WHADAYA SAY NOW, BOZZ?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU AND YOUR MAGIC FINGERS DID BACK THERE, BRON--BUT YOU WERE A LIFE-SAVER! AT LEAST BOZZ WAS SMART ENOUGH TO GET THE KIDS TO FOLLOW OUR ESCAPE-ROUTE!
THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH HUMAN DEATH BECAUSE OF MY RACE! IT MUST BE STOPPED AND STOPPED NOW!

KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN AND KEEP QUIET!
IF WE LAY LOW, WE MIGHT COME OUT OF THIS OKAY! I GOT A HUNCH--
--A HUNCH IT'S NOT US THE LIZARDS ARE AFTER!

PERHAPS NOT, EARTHLING--
--BUT WE CANNOT PERMIT ANY INTERFERENCE IN OUR MISSION--
--NOT EVEN ADOLESCENT INTERFERENCE!

CATALINA ISLAND...
WE'RE ALL PRIMED AND READY FOR TAKEOFF, ELIZABETH.
I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN ASKING YOU IF YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS..."VISION" THAT WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO L.A., ELIZABETH?
TRUST ME, CALEB--I CAN SAY NO MORE RIGHT NOW.
STRAP YOURSELF IN. KYLE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME.

YOU ALWAYS DID WANT A CHANCE TO BECOME THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP, MIKI.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING YOUR SHOT A LOT FASTER THAN EITHER ONE OF US IMAGINED.
DO YOU HAVE TO, KYLE? GO, I MEAN.
WHERE ELIZABETH IS INVOLVED...YOU KNOW I DO.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF, MIKI--AND THESE BRAVE GOOD PEOPLE.

YOU SEE THAT YOU DO THE SAME, KYLE BATES.
AND YOU KEEP THOSE POWERS OF YOURS TUNED IN ON HIM, ELIZABETH.

I ONLY WISH I WERE AS FORTUNATE AS YOU... TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE KYLE TO WATCH OVER ME...
KYLE, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT, KYLE... NOT NOW. NOT YET.
I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING...I'LL NEVER COME BACK TO CATALINA ISLAND.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ELIZABETH? WILL I COME BACK?

DAMN! THEY'VE GOT BOZZ AND THE KIDS!
THAT COULD GIVE THE LIZARDS A WEAPON WE'D BE HELPLESS AGAINST!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JULIE?

THEY COULD USE THEM AS HOSTAGES—THREATEN TO KILL THEM ONE BY ONE UNTIL YOU GAVE YOURSELF UP.
FROM WHAT WE COULD OVER-HEAR...SOMEHOW THEY KNOW YOU'RE HERE, BRON.
NO! I WON'T ALLOW IT!

THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH KILLING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE WAR BECAUSE OF ME.
EASY, PRINCE. MAYBE WE CAN AVOID MORE BLOODSHED...IF WE CAN USE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE TO CATCH THOSE LIZARDS OFF-GUARD.

THE KILLING MUST CEASE...
...BUT I FEAR THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY MY FATHER WILL BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND.. UNDERSTAND WHAT HIS SON HAS SEEN FOR HIMSELF.
BRON, THIS IS NO TIME TO FIDDLE WITH THE OJOW.

JUST A FEW MORE BUILDINGS TO GO AND WE'LL BE IN PERFECT POSITION TO NAIL THE VISITORS IF THEY DON'T DISARM.
FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAKE—I HOPE IT DOESN'T COME TO THAT!

IF THERE'S A CROSSFIRE, SOME OF THOSE KIDS ARE BOUND TO GET HURT OR EVEN KILLED.
I KNOW, BUT IF THE LIZARDS BELIEVE THEIR PRINCE WILL GO TO THE WINNERS OF THIS FIGHT--
--THEY'RE LIABLE TO TRY ANYTHING!

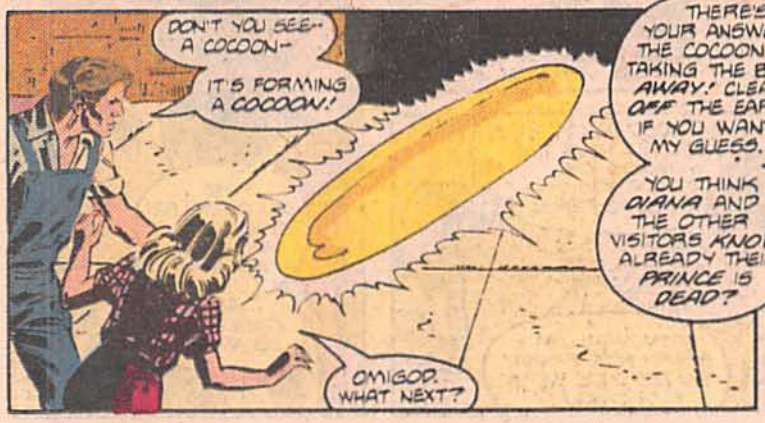
FORGIVE ME, FATHER.
I KNOW THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND FOR ME WHEN YOU DISPATCHED ME TO EARTH!
BUT SOMEDAY ...SOMEDAY I PRAY YOU WILL REALIZE...
...THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY!
GOOD-BYE, MIKE...JULIE!
BRON!!
OHHHH!
OH, GOD!
RRGGHHH
ZZZZTTT
HE JUMPED AHEAD OF US INTO A LIZARD'S LINE OF FIRE!
ONE DEAD LIZARD'S LINE OF FIRE!
BRON... BRON!!
ERRKKK!

NO USE, JULIE... HE CAN'T HEAR US. HE TOOK A DIRECT HIT!
H-HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF, MIKE.

JULIE—
--GET AWAY FROM HIM!

THE OTON!
MIKE, WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMEHOW... I THINK BRON'S DEATH HAS ACTIVATED IT!

IT'S...IT'S GENERATING SOME SORT OF ENERGY-FIELD AROUND HIM.


DON'T YOU SEE-- A COCOON--
IT'S FORMING A COCOON!
OMIGOD. WHAT NEXT?

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER-- THE COCOON IS TAKING THE BODY AWAY! CLEAR OFF THE EARTH, IF YOU WANT MY GUESS.
YOU THINK DIANA AND THE OTHER VISITORS KNOW ALREADY THEIR PRINCE IS DEAD?
MAYBE NOT DIANA--
--BUT SOMEONE UP THERE!

ROAR-- THAT CANNOT BE WHAT I THINK IT IS.
A ROYAL DEATH-CAPSULE!
IT CAN ONLY MEAN THE WORST-- WE WERE TOO LATE TO SAVE THE PRINCE!
NOW THAT THEY'RE DISTRACTED-- IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

THAT'S IT, GUYS! I SEE YOU HAD THE SAME IDEA I HAD!
UHH!
IT'S LIKE . YOU TAUGHT US, BOZZ--
--SOMETIMES FIGHTING DIRTY IS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN!

YEAH, BUT WHAT DO I KNOW!
IT LOOKS LIKE DONOVAN AND PARRISH WERE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT LITTLE LIZARD--
--HE REALLY WAS A PRINCE!

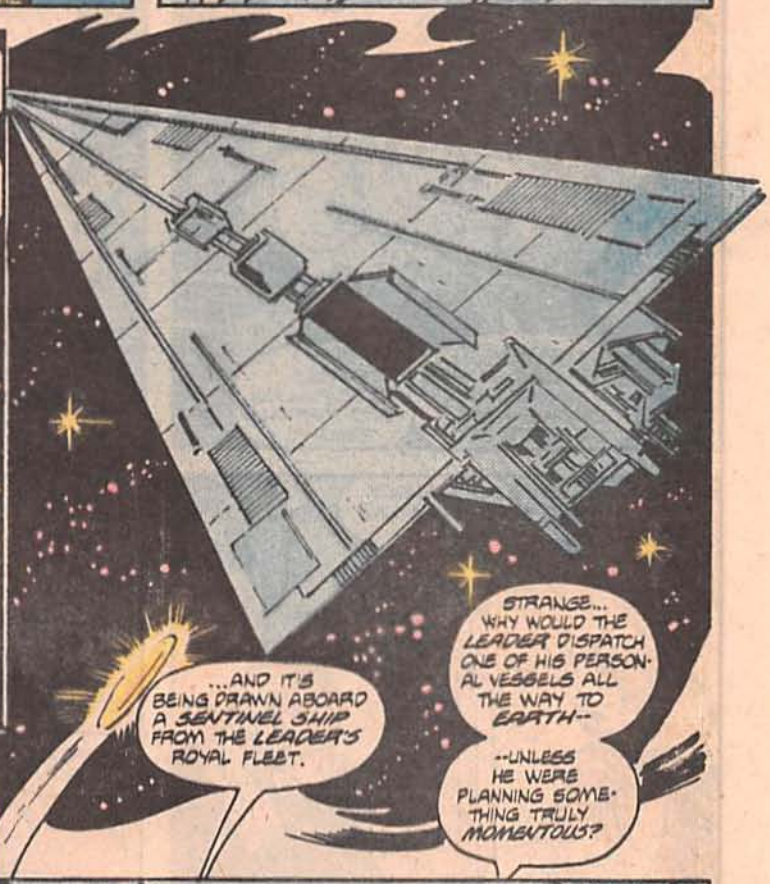
GOOD WORK, KIDS. YOU ALL HAVE THE MAKINGS OF JUNIOR RESISTANCE FIGHTERS!
DONOVAN... I'M SORRY FOR THINKIN' YOU AND JULIE WERE WITH THEM!

FORGET IT.
POOR BRON! I WISH I COULD'VE APOLOGIZED TO HIM TOO!
ALL THE TIME HE SAID HE WANTED TO HELP... AND ALL HE GOT FROM ME IN RETURN WAS BLIND HATRED.
HE NEVER BLAMED YOU FOR THE HATE, BOZZ...HE KNEW IT WAS THE WAR.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE CHOSE THIS TIME ...THIS PLACE FOR HIS DEATH.
MAYBE HE INTENDED HIS DEATH NOT TO BE IN VAIN... BUT TO SERVE A PURPOSE!
MIKE... COULD YOU BE THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING...
...AND COULD WE BE RIGHT?

...IT IS AN UNIDENTIFIED PROJECTILE LAUNCHED FROM EARTH AND HEADING TOWARD US--
--WHAT MORE CAUSE DO I NEED TO ORDER IT SHOT DOWN?

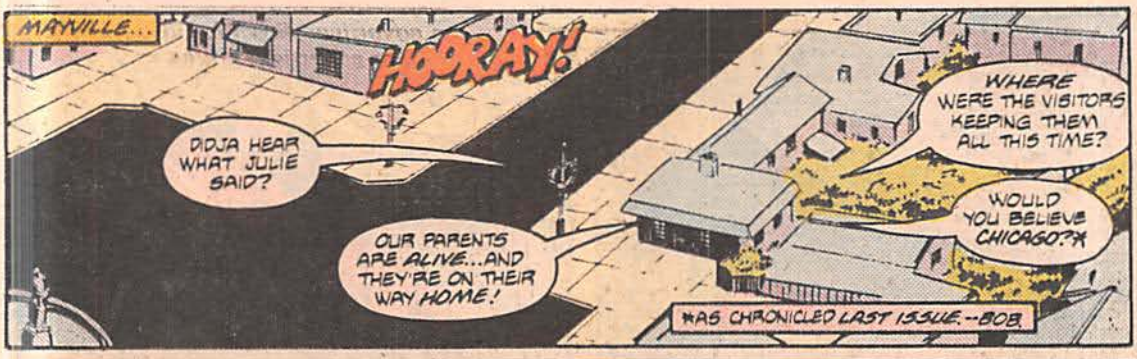
OBSERVE MORE CLOSELY, DIANA...NOW THAT THE OBJECT HAS ASCENDED PAST THE GLARE OF EARTH'S SUN--
OH, PHILIP!

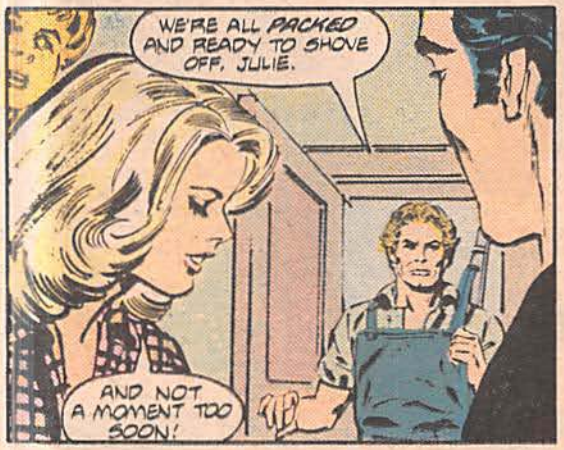
NO WONDER YOU COUNTERMANDED MY ORDER TO FIRE.
I-IT'S A ROYAL DEATH CAPSULE! PRINCE BARON MUST BE ...DEAD!
I'M AFRAID SO, DIANA...


...AND IT'S BEING DRAWN ABOARD A SENTINEL SHIP FROM THE LEADER'S ROYAL FLEET.
STRANGE... WHY WOULD THE LEADER DISPATCH ONE OF HIS PERSONAL VESSELS ALL THE WAY TO EARTH--
--UNLESS HE WERE PLANNING SOMETHING TRULY MOMENTOUS?

WOULD NOT THE DEATH OF HIS ONLY SON SEEM SUFFICIENT TO MERIT SUCH--

PHILIP, I MUST FIND OUT THE TRUTH FOR CERTAIN!
I'M GOING ABOARD THE SENTINEL SHIP MYSELF!
I STRONGLY URGE AGAINST IT, DIANA. YOU MAY NOT WELCOME WHAT YOU DISCOVER.





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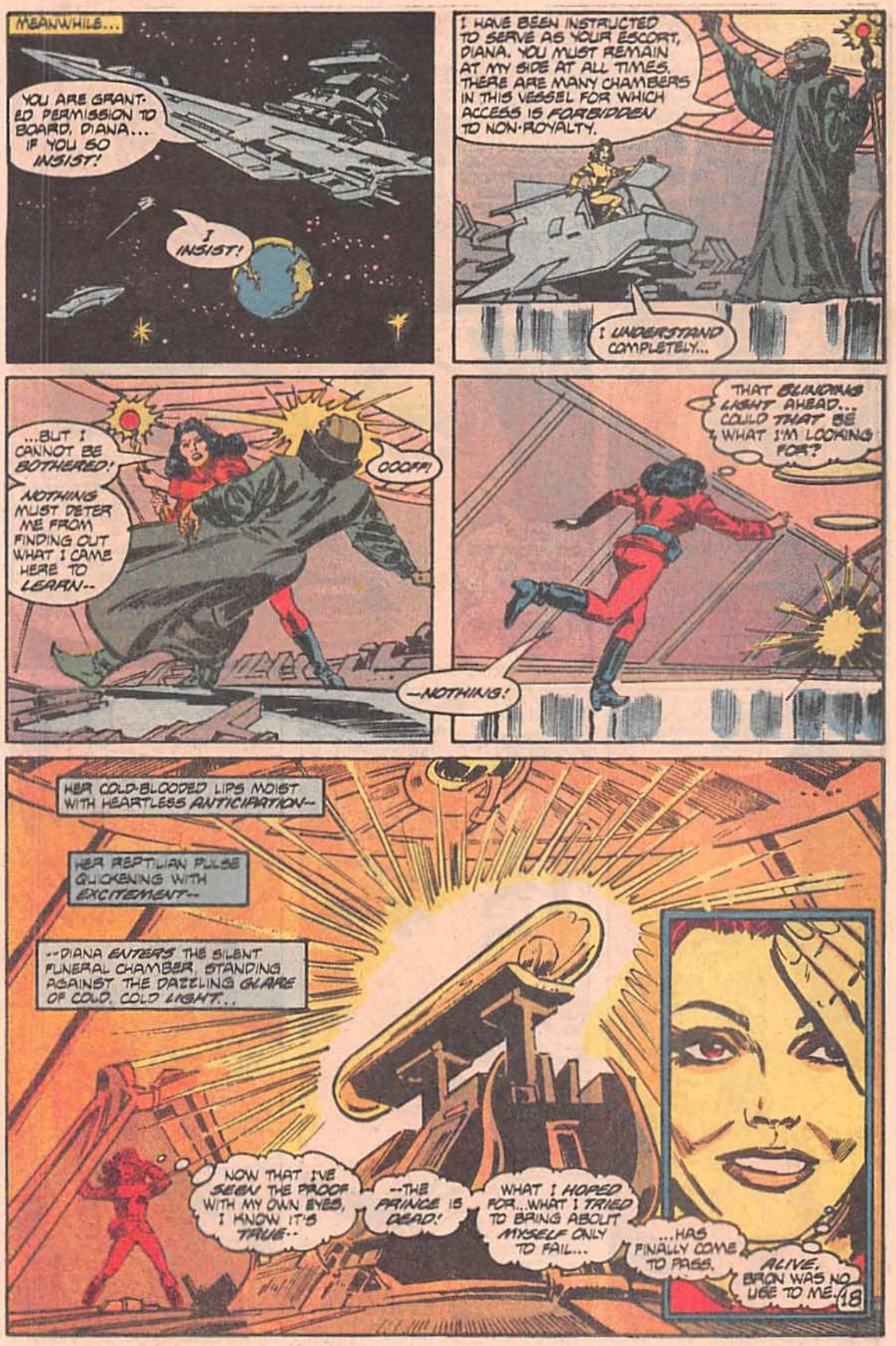
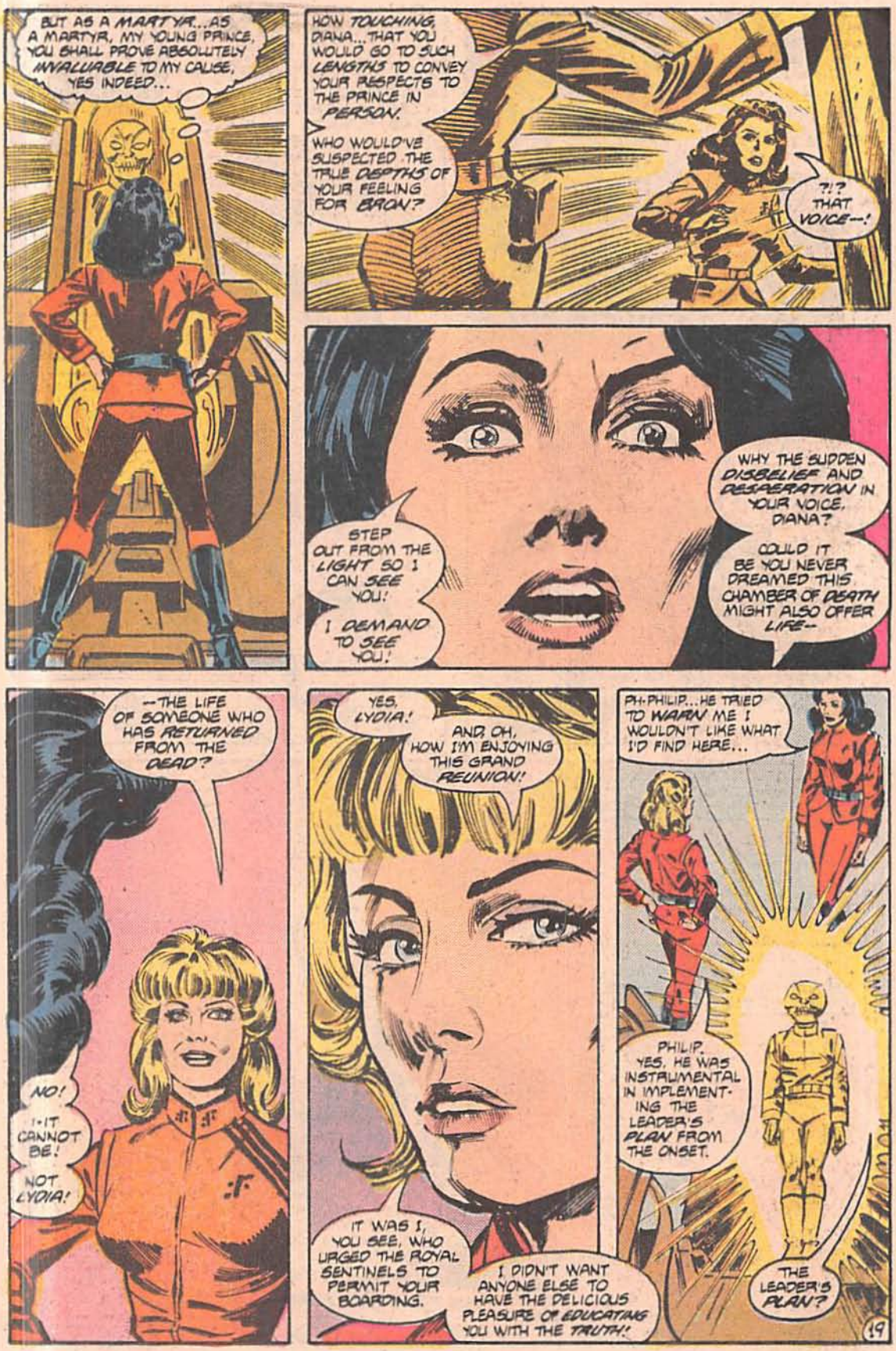
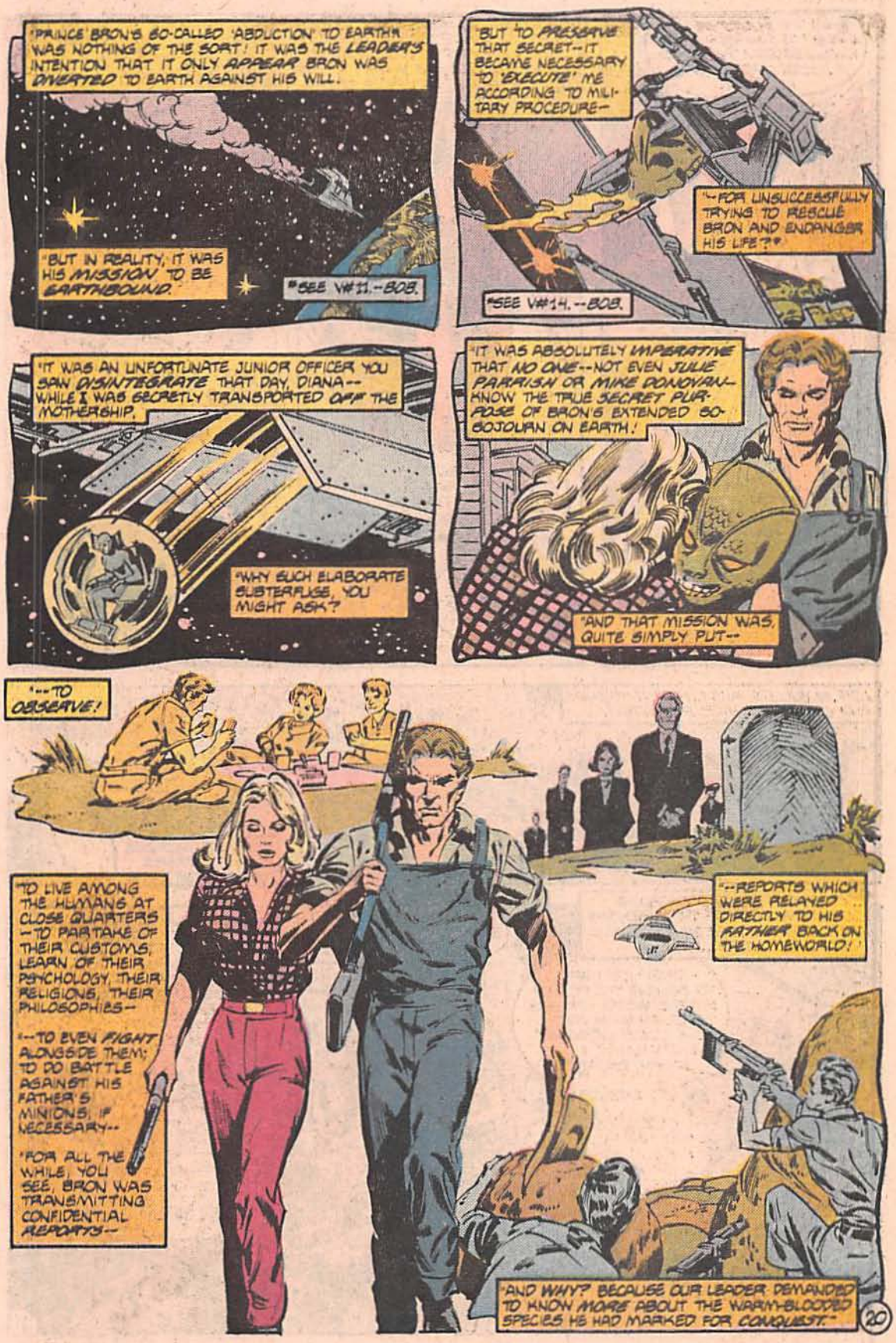

MEANWHILE...
YOU ARE GRANTED PERMISSION TO BOARD, DIANA... IF YOU SO INSIST!
I INSIST!
I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SERVE AS YOUR ESCORT, DIANA. YOU MUST REMAIN AT MY SIDE AT ALL TIMES. THERE ARE MANY CHAMBERS IN THIS VESSEL FOR WHICH ACCESS IS FORBIDDEN TO NON-ROYALTY.
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY...
...BUT I CANNOT BE BOTHERED!
NOTHING MUST DETER ME FROM FINDING OUT WHAT I CAME HERE TO LEARN--
OOOFF!
THAT BLINDING LIGHT AHEAD... COULD THAT BE WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR?
--NOTHING!
HER COLD-BLOODED LIPS MOIST WITH HEARTLESS ANTICIPATION--
HER REPTILIAN PULSE QUICKENING WITH EXCITEMENT--
--DIANA ENTERS THE SILENT FUNERAL CHAMBER, STANDING AGAINST THE DAZZLING GLARE OF COLD, COLD LIGHT...
NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE PROOF WITH MY OWN EYES, I KNOW IT'S TRUE--
--THE PRINCE IS DEAD!
WHAT I HOPED FOR...WHAT I TRIED TO BRING ABOUT MYSELF ONLY TO FAIL...
...HAS FINALLY COME TO PASS.
ALIVE, BRON WAS NO USE TO ME.
18


BUT AS A MARTYR...AS A MARTYR, MY YOUNG PRINCE, YOU SHALL PROVE ABSOLUTELY INVALUABLE TO MY CAUSE, YES INDEED...
HOW TOUCHING, DIANA...THAT YOU WOULD GO TO SUCH LENGTHS TO CONVEY YOUR RESPECTS TO THE PRINCE IN PERSON.
WHO WOULD'VE SUSPECTED THE TRUE DEPTHS OF YOUR FEELING FOR BRON?
?!? THAT VOICE--!
STEP OUT FROM THE LIGHT SO I CAN SEE YOU!
I DEMAND TO SEE YOU!
WHY THE SUDDEN DISBELIEF AND DESPERATION IN YOUR VOICE, DIANA?
COULD IT BE YOU NEVER DREAMED THIS CHAMBER OF DEATH MIGHT ALSO OFFER LIFE--
--THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS RETURNED FROM THE DEAD?
NO!
I-IT CANNOT BE!
NOT LYDIA!
YES, LYDIA!
AND, OH, HOW I'M ENJOYING THIS GRAND REUNION!
IT WAS I, YOU SEE, WHO URGED THE ROYAL SENTINELS TO PERMIT YOUR BOARDING.
I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO HAVE THE DELICIOUS PLEASURE OF EDUCATING YOU WITH THE TRUTH!
PH-PHILIP...HE TRIED TO WARN ME I WOULDN'T LIKE WHAT I'D FIND HERE...
PHILIP. YES, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN IMPLEMENTING THE LEADER'S PLAN FROM THE ONSET.
THE LEADER'S PLAN?


'PRINCE' BRON'S SO-CALLED 'ABDUCTION' TO EARTH* WAS NOTHING OF THE SORT! IT WAS THE LEADER'S INTENTION THAT IT ONLY APPEAR BRON WAS DIVERTED TO EARTH AGAINST HIS WILL.
'BUT IN REALITY, IT WAS HIS MISSION TO BE EARTHBOUND.'
*SEE V#11.--BOB.
'BUT TO PRESERVE THAT SECRET--IT BECAME NECESSARY TO 'EXECUTE' ME ACCORDING TO MILITARY PROCEDURE--
'--FOR UNSUCCESSFULLY TRYING TO RESCUE BRON AND ENDANGER HIS LIFE?'*
*SEE V#14.--BOB.
'IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE JUNIOR OFFICER YOU SAW DISINTEGRATE THAT DAY, DIANA--WHILE I WAS SECRETLY TRANSPORTED OFF THE MOTHERSHIP.
'WHY SUCH ELABORATE SUBTERFUGE, YOU MIGHT ASK?
'IT WAS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT NO ONE--NOT EVEN JULIE PARRISH OR MIKE DONOVAN--KNOW THE TRUE SECRET PURPOSE OF BRON'S EXTENDED SOJOURN ON EARTH!
'AND THAT MISSION WAS, QUITE SIMPLY PUT--
'--TO OBSERVE!
'TO LIVE AMONG THE HUMANS AT CLOSE QUARTERS--TO PARTAKE OF THEIR CUSTOMS, LEARN OF THEIR PSYCHOLOGY, THEIR RELIGIONS, THEIR PHILOSOPHIES--
'--TO EVEN FIGHT ALONGSIDE THEM; TO DO BATTLE AGAINST HIS FATHER'S MINIONS, IF NECESSARY--
'FOR ALL THE WHILE, YOU SEE, BRON WAS TRANSMITTING CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS--
'--REPORTS WHICH WERE RELAYED DIRECTLY TO HIS FATHER BACK ON THE HOMEWORLD!'
'AND WHY? BECAUSE OUR LEADER DEMANDED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WARM-BLOODED SPECIES HE HAD MARKED FOR CONQUEST.'

THEN THE RUMORS ARE TRUE! THE LEADER WAS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE EARTH-INVASION.

AFFIRMATIVE— THAT IS, UNTIL HIS SON'S TRAGIC DEATH--THE VICTIM OF ONE OF OUR OWN OFFICERS WHO WAS THEN SLAIN BY MIKE DONOVAN.

OH, PHILIP AND I KNEW ALL ALONG OF YOUR SECRET HOPES THAT BRON WOULD DIE AN EARTHBOUND DEATH...

...BECAUSE YOU ASSUMED THE TRAGEDY WOULD ONLY ANGER THE LEADER AND CONVINCE HIM TO ESCALATE THE WAR.

PHILIP TELLS ME THE LEADER'S SECOND THOUGHTS ARE NO MORE— --HE HAS MADE HIS DECISION AND A ROYAL DICTATE WILL SOON BE FORTHCOMING.

LET'S HEAR IT, LYDIA! TELL ME HIS DECISION!

SEE YOU BACK AT THE MOTHERSHIP, DIANA.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE??

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE??

LOS ANGELES, 4:15 P.M.--FIVE FRIENDS AND COMRADES HAVE REUNITED...

...YET THERE IS NO SIGN OF JOY SHARED BETWEEN THEM.

PERHAPS BECAUSE IT IS WARTIME...

...OR JUST PERHAPS BECAUSE SOMEHOW EACH OF THEM SENSES THEY MAY BE TOGETHER FOR THE VERY LAST TIME...

-WHEW- IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THE PILE OF RUBBLE WE'RE WALKING THROUGH WAS ONCE THE CLUB CREOLE! KNOW WHAT I MEAN, ELIZABETH?

ELIZABETH?

SHEESH! SHE'S "OFF" AGAIN, LIKE SHE'S IN SOME SORT OF TRANCE!

WHAT'S WITH HER, TODAY?

I DON'T LIKE IT, MIKE. IT'S BEEN OVER 24 HOURS SINCE BRON'S DEATH...

I KNOW— AND SO FAR, NOT A SINGLE RESPONSE FROM THE VISITORS.

ANY IDEAS, WILLY?

WHATEVER THE RESPONSE IS...I FEAR IT WILL BE MASSIVE!

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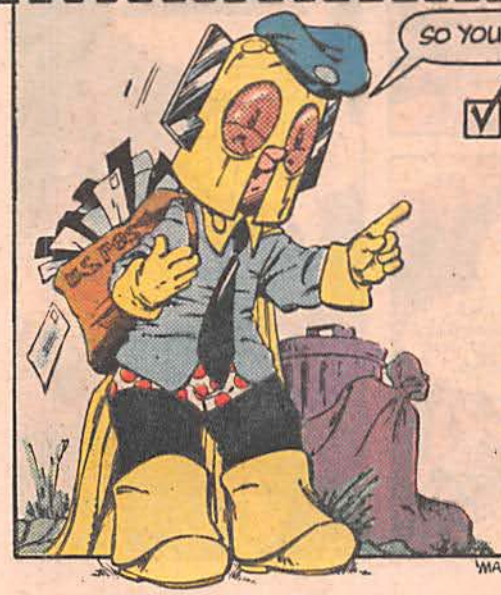

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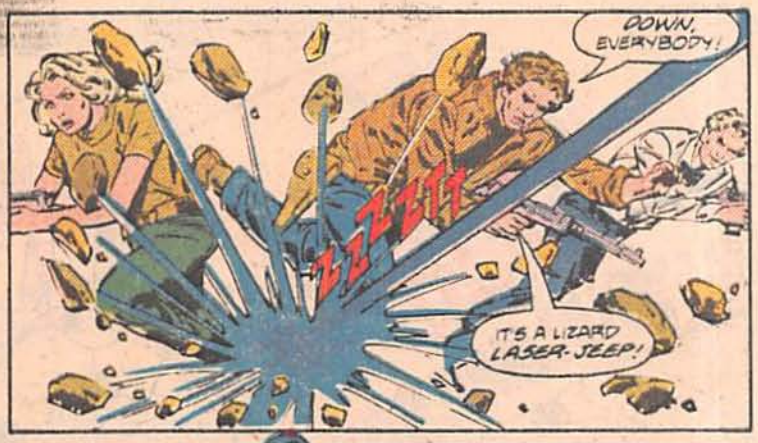
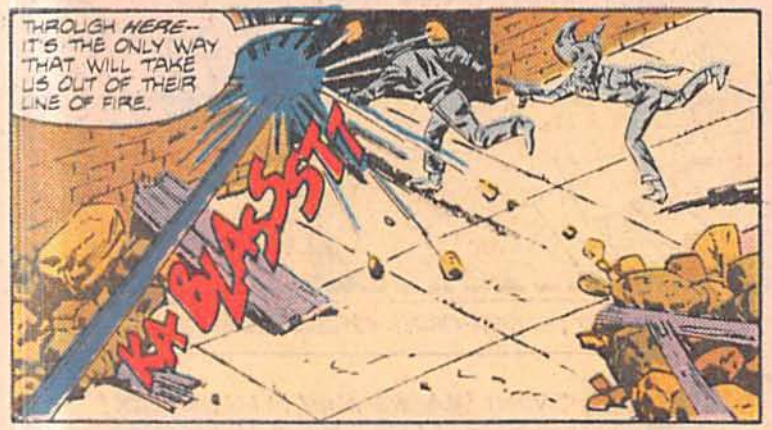
I AGREE. ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP MOVING AND KEEP A SHARP LOOK-OUT FOR--
WAIT!
DANGER! I SENSE DANGER AHEAD!

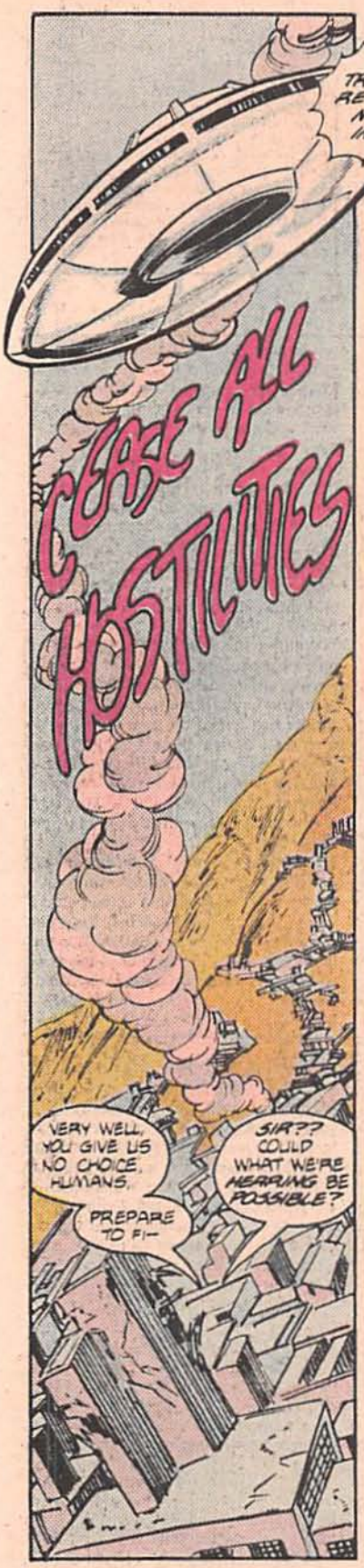

DOWN, EVERYBODY!
IT'S A LIZARD LASER-JEEP!

IT'S TOO LATE, DONOVAN! THERE'S NO WAY OUT!
DON'T MAKE THIS ANY UGLIER THAN IT HAS TO BE!


THROUGH HERE-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY THAT WILL TAKE US OUT OF THEIR LINE OF FIRE.
KA-BLASTT!

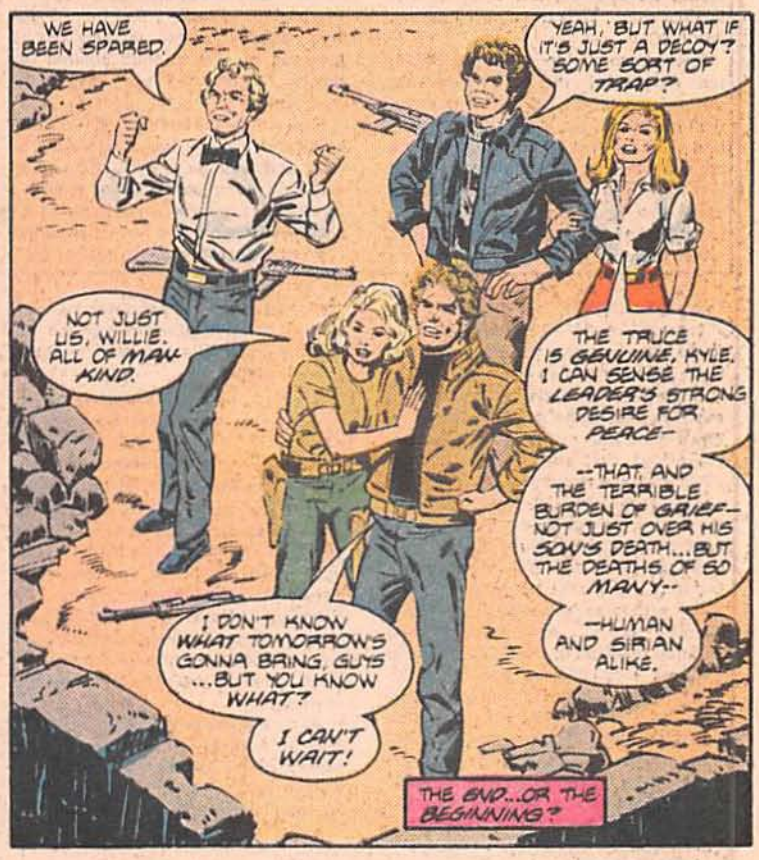
MIKE, IT'S A DEAD END. TEN FEET OF SOLID BRICK WALL!
ELIZABETH! ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?
I ALREADY TRIED, MIKE, BUT SOMEHOW...I'M NOT SURE WHY ...I CAN'T!
IT'S LIKE I'M CHANGING. I'VE LOST MY POWERS.
GREAT.

THIS IS MY FINAL APPEAL, HUMANS.
LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND SURRENDER.
WE WILL SPARE YOUR LIVES.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE HEARD THAT ONE?
WE'VE HAD OUR BACKS TO THE WALL BEFORE. WE'RE NOT LICKED YET.


CEASE ALL HOSTILITIES
ALL VISITOR TROOPS ARE TO RETURN TO THE MOTHERSHIP IMMEDIATELY!
VERY WELL, YOU GIVE US NO CHOICE, HUMANS.
PREPARE TO FI--
SIR?? COULD WHAT WE'RE HEARING BE POSSIBLE?

WE...WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WE MUST OBEY!
THAT VOICE... I-IT'S HIS!
THE VOICE OF THE LEADER.

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THE LEADER IS INTENDING, PHILIP?
WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING, LYDIA.
BUT I SENSE THIS TRUCE ISN'T MARKING AN END...
...AS MUCH AS IT IS A NEW BEGINNING--FOR BOTH OUR RACES.


WE HAVE BEEN SPARED.
YEAH, BUT WHAT IF IT'S JUST A DECOY? SOME SORT OF TRAP?
NOT JUST US, WILLIE. ALL OF MAN-KIND.
THE TRUCE IS GENUINE, KYLE. I CAN SENSE THE LEADER'S STRONG DESIRE FOR PEACE--
--THAT, AND THE TERRIBLE BURDEN OF GRIEF--NOT JUST OVER HIS SON'S DEATH...BUT THE DEATHS OF SO MANY--
--HUMAN AND SIRIAN ALIKE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TOMORROW'S GONNA BRING, GUYS ...BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
I CAN'T WAIT!
THE END...OR THE BEGINNING?

V-MAIL

L-2286

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We promised you a special announcement this month and it may not be the one you were expecting.

V is being cancelled with issue #18.

No doubt, you're crying out, "Why?" Let me explain.

There have been a variety of factors that led us to cancel this title after a year and a half. First and foremost, the sales began slipping just about the time the TV series went off the air last March. We were tracking the figures carefully—despite the six-month delay in getting accurate numbers—and it was spiraling down enough to concern us all.

Also, I am writing this on November 3. NBC and Blatt-Singer have yet to resolve whether or not there will be another TV mini-series to conclude the events left from episode 19. For the better part of a year, Blatt-Singer remained optimistic that a mini-series would be ordered, but time is now against them. Why the delay? I dunno. Ask NBC.

It was becoming increasingly difficult for Cary and me to retain our enthusiasm when we had this stone wall in front of us. We each had ideas and plans for the LA Resistance and the crew aboard the LA Mothership. We were going to take the now-concluded story line featuring Bron and travel around the country visiting different cities. We were going to bring in Lydia's brother, expand our coverage of the Fifth Column, and actually cause Kyle more grief than he has seen in recent months.

However, we were still treading water in between episode 18 and the finale. When word came down to cancel this series, we chose this issue to wrap everything up and did so in such a way that the final pages of this issue are recreations of the opening minutes from that final episode.

Therefore, everything has come full-circle. Elizabeth has lost her powers and the Leader has come to Earth. Diana and Lt. James did what they could to sabotage events so their "glorious" war could continue. The Leader has taken Elizabeth for his mate, and Kyle, grief-stricken, has stowed aboard the shuttlecraft. However, just to complicate matters, Diana somehow smuggled a bomb aboard the shuttle so it would kill the Leader, Elizabeth, and Kyle. Diana was already under custody for a previous murder attempt against her fellow officers, so her days were numbered.

How will this all be resolved? We don't know and, like you, we'll just have to sit back and wait for a concluding mini-series. If none comes, then maybe a novel or a cartoon series or feature film. All these options have been mentioned.

What about the final two issues? Well, we've been promising you the two-part flashback focus on Elias story by Paul Kupperberg, Denys Cowan, and Dick Giordano, and we're going to keep our word. It's an exciting story, so look for it next month.

Cary has a handful of new projects that have been recently approved, so keep your eyes open for announcements. Carmine is hard at work on next year's SUPER POWERS mini-series (scripted by Mr. Kupperberg), and Tony remains the inker on INFINITY, INC., plus he's illustrating a few issues of SECRET ORIGINS.

Whither the *V* crew? Blatt-Singer is already producing a handful of TV films; Faye Grant is leaving *Singin' in the Rain* to portray Lana Turner for CBS-TV; Marc Singer has joined the cast of former *V* arch-rival *Dallas;* June Chadwick has joined the cast of NBC's *Riptide;* Robert Englund is scaring audiences in *Nightmare on Elm Street Part II;* and the rest of the cast is busy with other TV and film projects.

And now, your mail on recent issues, but one more thing: we do want your letters on the remaining issues, and I will try as hard as possible to fit the great majority of them in before the last page is printed. And write us about the final issues anyway, so we know how we did. Thanks.

Dear V-Team,

I recently read V #12. I must say that I loved it! It seems that you all put the best work possible into all of the series!

However, I do have a comment to make in regards to a letter written by one Danny Nah in the V-Mail section. He stated that the Visitors have a different vocal resonance.

At a recent science fiction convention in LA, I purchased a Visitor Technical Information Manual. It states that due to pollution and warfare on Sirius IV, the planet's atmosphere was laden with heavy gases such as carbon dioxide, argon, and Krypton. The residual build-up of these gases in the Visitors' vocal chords gave them the quavering, resonant, up-and-down pitch to their voices. However, this condition was only temporary, decreasing with the advent of an oxygen-rich atmosphere which relaxed their vocal chords. Take this into consideration when readers bring up disputes about "the voice."

Please tell me why the Resistance is shown using Visitor firearms so frequently (especially on covers featuring the Resistance).

Commander Lydia
(No Real Name Given)
19400 Strathern Street
Reseda, CA 91335

The explanation you provided is quite interesting but entirely theoretical. There is no authorized licensed Visitor Technical Manual. You bought a fan publication which has not been sanctioned by Blatt-Singer Productions, therefore its contents are not binding on anyone. Please be wary when purchasing items at conventions, since so many times the items you're buying are illegal or phony.

As for the use of Visitor firearms, you have to fight fire with fire, and since bullets aren't as effective as the advanced technology in the guns, why shouldn't the Resistance use them?

*****

Dear V People,

V #12 was good, but I am already sick of the same story plot. For example, all your stories basically are: the Visitors do something bad and the Resistance stops it. Please change the story a little, or hopefully you can start a continuous story about the Visitors before they came to Earth. I also think you should develop the characters more. The only other thing I have to say is: Where are Ham, Chris, and Robin?

Patrick McCullough
No Address Given

As you saw by now, Patrick, the trio from Chicago played a role in last month's issue. Again, we were going to do more with them, but we ran out of time. I also think we have been diversifying the story lines ever since issue #7.

*****

Dear Cary and Bob,

Another good job by a superb squad, but that is not the reason I am writing to

you. I want to know what happened in the TV episodes of *V* that were not shown in Hawaii but were seen elsewhere. The last episode I saw had Lydia's brother Nigel show up because Diana wanted to sacrifice him.

Lincoln Kupchak
Kailua, HA

The recap to the final points of note is at the top of this column, Lincoln. While we're here, let me thank you for sending us copies of your stories about the V characters. They were interesting reading and the second season showed promise—however, as you now know, many of your events couldn't possibly happen because of the cliff-hanger.

*****

Dear Sirius IV Real Estate Company,

Sensational! Stunning! Superb! These words begin to describe V #11. Carmine's art lives up to V's usual excellent standards and Jerry's cover for V #11 is mind-blowing! Tony's inking is virtually flawless and Carrie once again pours vital life into each syllable our heroes and villains speak. Michele's colors are dazzling and Bob's editing is fantastic. Plus, Cary has started an immensely intriguing story, one that could develop into three or four parts.

However, perfection has not been achieved. Philip is continually misspelled. Plus, Philip's hair was colored blond on page three. And a portion of any unmasked Visitor mouth always has been failed to be colored, making the Visitor look like an idiot.

Gary Olson
220 Fitzner Drive
Davison, MI 48423

I guess maybe my editing isn't so fantastic, since I let those misspellings through. However, it was a conscious choice to leave the lips of the Visitors pale and to give Philip lighter hair. We wanted to create some color differences amongst the characters as so many of them were straight brunettes. Sorry you weren't thrilled by Michele's work, but blame me.

*****

Dear V Friends,

Hi, there. I'm writing in reference to V #11. This is my first letter to V-Mail and I think you guys are doing a great job. I have only one complaint: on pages three and six through 11 (and 18 and 19), the drawings of the Visitor officers are good except for their teeth. Their teeth aren't perfect, square-shaped, and white. No. They're skinny, lots bunched together, sharp, and yellowish. And their eyes have more yellow with the red.

Besides that, it looks good. Michele Wolfman is good with the colors. Lydia is looking better.

"Cricket" McQuay
Rock Island, IL

Again, we're talking about Lizard lips and not teeth, but you can't please everyone, can you?

*****

Dear V-People,

Keep up the good work! You're doing a great job! Ever since NBC dropped *V*, I've had to rely on your comic book to get my monthly quota of lizard-fighting. And let me say I've gotten my fill! The artwork is excellent and the story lines are even better!

I just received issue #11 and I loved it! After reading it, I feel sure that you've got another good story line going here and I can hardly wait to see how it develops.

Let me apologize in advance if the following question is one you've had to answer many times, but I want to get it answered and off my mind. The question: What has happened to Sancho Gomez?

Jeff Woodburn
576 Duck Court
Prescott, AZ 86301

Jeff, we don't mind answering some of these questions every few months, since we have a large number of casual readers. Sancho was a good character that was unfortunately not added to the weekly series. We didn't have room for him in the comic, either, so all we can guess is that he continues the fight, probably south of the border with family and friends.

*****

Dear Gentlemen,

Your comic is improving in many ways. With each issue your covers improve drastically. My favorite covers are #10 and #11. Diana is finally looking like she should. The best-looking characters are Lydia and Willie. Philip, Julie, and Elizabeth are all pretty good-looking, although Mike and Kyle need a lot of work to make them look like they're supposed to look.

Keith S. Rust
Rt. 1 Box 1015
Davis, CA 95616

*****

Dear Editor,

Thanks for another fantastic issue of V! Now that NBC has axed the series, I look forward each month to the comics and novels. Issue #11 is about the best so far. It was very clever of you writing the Leader's son into the story line. By the way, who's his wife? Hopefully, we'll see her and many other interesting characters.

The art this time was a little better, but it still needs a little more work.

All in all, this story was really great. The writing is just like the TV show, but better. I, myself, am seriously thinking of a career as a comic book writer after I finish high school and college. How would I go about achieving this goal and what should I plan on studying? This will help me a lot. Thanks!

Ed Myers
4433 Peoria Road
Springfield, IL

To be a writer—of comics, TV, magazine articles, books, or stories—one should study the rules of grammar, story structure, and the classics. Courses in English and Journalism can't be emphasized enough in either high school or college. Also, one must WANT to write and do it rather than talk about it. In addition to letters to comics, you should write ... anything! Do work for the school paper and literary magazine, write for fanzines, join an amateur press association, or just write for yourself. But the key is to write! Best of luck.

*****

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Next month begins our final two-parter and it's Elias against the Lizards, but a former flame comes between him and death. A taut, moving story by Paul Kupperberg, Denys Cowan, and Dick Giordano.

Elsewhere in the DC Universe, I suggest you look at the new direction recently taken in GREEN LANTERN or join the 250th-issue celebration over at JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA or join me at STAR TREK, where this month we present another Spock story.

Die-hard science fiction fans should keep an eye out for our line of SF adaptations in graphic novel format. The most recently released was Klaus Janson's interpretation of Ray Bradbury's FROST & FIRE, but coming soon is Fred Pohl's THE MERCHANTS OF VENUS as seen by Neil McPheeters.

Until next time, keep writing, keep smiling, and of course, preta-na-mal

—Bob Greenberger

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